Statement

List of planned schemes with their estimated card

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	Estimated Cost
1.	Sipat-II Supplementary Transmission System	Rs. 813.67 crore
2.	Western Region Strengthening Scheme-II	Rs. 4931.83 crore
3.	Transmission system associated with Gandhar-II Power Project	Rs. 539.44. crore
4.	Transmission system associated with Kawas-II Power Project	Rs. 764.96 crore
5.	Western Region Strengthening Scheme-III	Rs. 70.78 crore
6.	East-West Strengthening Scheme	Rs. 690.05 crore
7.	North-West Inter-regional transmission scheme	Rs. 475.83 crore

Need for improvement in power sector

†3663. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an urgent need of improvement in power sector;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are laying emphasis upon the proper distribution and the proper sale-price of power for this purpose;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the country is suffering losses due to the prevalent inefficiency and corruption in the State Electricity Boards; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Electricity being a concurrent subject, supply and distribution of electricity in a State is in the purview of the State Government/State Power Utility concerned.

The National Electricity Policy issued recently by the Government of India recognizes that distribution is the most critical segment of the electricity business chain. The real challenge of reforms in the power sector lies in efficient management of the distribution sector.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs).

The major factors responsible for losses for power utilities *inter alia*, include theft of power, high technical losses, over staffing in utilities, poor metering, billing and collection, irrational tariff and non-payment of subsidies by the Government.

The Government of India has initiated various steps to revive the poor financial health of SEBs/Power Utilities. The Ministry of Power has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)/Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with States on power sector reform envisaging support of Central Government subject to States progressing satisfactorily on agreed reform agenda. The Union Government, in order to help the State Utilities is providing funds to States under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for investment in identified distribution areas for, *inter alia*, reducing technical losses and improving the quality of supply and also for incentivising, through grants, reduction of cash losses. Past debts of SEBs due to Central Public Sector Undertakings have been securitised under tripartite agreements.

Allocation of power to Karnataka from Eastern Region

3664. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Government of Karnataka for allotment of 337 MW of power from the Eastern Region to offset the effect of the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel based power projects;

(b) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(c) the time likely to be taken in allotment of 337 MW of power to Karnataka from NTPC plants in Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c) As per information available, the Government of Karnataka had approached Ministry of Power in July, 2004 for allocation of additional 337 MW of power from Eastern Region (ER) to offset the effect of the high cost of power generated by liquid fuel based power projects in Karnataka. The